

PATENT

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re Patent Application of: |) Docket No.: 23632-002 |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Dazhi CHEN et al. |) Confirmation No.: 3675 |
| Serial No.: 09/461,336 |) Examiner: Bryan J. Jaketic |
| Filed: December 15, 1999 |) Group Art Unit: 3627 |
| For: System and Method for Reducing Exce | ESS CAPACITY FOR RESTAURANTS AND OTHER |

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

INDUSTRIES DURING OFF-PEAK OR OTHER TIMES

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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APR 2 1 2004

GROUP 3600

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby make of record in the above-identified application the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date, and after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the

Serial No. 09/461,336 Docket No.: 23632-002

merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Action or Notice of Allowance, whichever occurs first. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c).

These documents were cited by the U.S. Patent Office in co-pending Application Serial No. 09/580,546, filed May 30, 2000, in a Notice of Allowability dated <u>January 21, 2004</u>. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2). No fee is required.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney for Applicants

Dated: April 21, 2004



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION

| Docket Number . | Application Number |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 23632-002 | 09/461,336 |
| Applicant(s) | |
| Dazhi CHEN et al. | |
| Filing Date | Group Art Unit |
| December 15, 1999 | 3627 |

Form PTO-1449

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | REF | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE | | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DAT IF APPROPRIAT |
|---------------------|-----|--------------|------------|--------|------|----------|----------|--------------------------------|
| | Α | 6,477,503 | 11/05/2002 | Mankes | | 705 | 5 | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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|-----|--------------|------------|---------------|-------|----------|---------|--------|
| REF | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | YES | NO |
| В | WO 00/60517 | 10/12/2000 | International | | | | |
| С | WO 00/72113 | 11/30/2000 | International | | | | |
| D | WO 01/22321 | 03/29/2001 | International | _ | | | |
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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.